

to duty and his responsiveness to the needs of the village. I worked with him when I was the President of the Parent Teachers Organization at M.U. Lujan. Lorraine, my wife, worked with him on many community projects and served with him as an appointed member of the Mayor's Community Council. Our entire family worked with him on other community projects and he performed his duties with dignity and with the attention to the needs of his community exemplified his public service.

I join Mayor Bernardo's family, relatives, friends and fellow neighbors in acknowledging his service to the community of Yona and to Guam. On behalf of the people of Guam, I proudly congratulate him for successfully taking on one of the most challenging and demanding public offices in Guam. And as a fellow public servant, I send my warmest and most grateful si Yu'os ma'ase. Maolek todo i che'cho'-mu, amigo-hu, para i benifisium todo i toatao Guam. Ma sen agredeci i setbisium-mu (thank you very much. The work you have done on behalf of the people of Guam has been outstanding. The people of Guam truly appreciate your services).

HONORING MARILYN CULPEPPER

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Marilyn Culpepper for her dedication

to the health and well being of Monroe County, Alabama, citizens.

Marilyn Culpepper was appointed to the Monroe County Hospital Board in July 1996 and elected its chairwoman by unanimous vote of the board a few months later. She served as chairwoman from 1997 to 2000. Mrs. Culpepper has since moved to Mobile, and I wish her well as she takes on new challenges.

A native of Grove Hill, Alabama, Mrs. Culpepper is a 1980 graduate of the University of West Alabama (formerly Livingston University) and was the recipient of that school's Alumni of the Year Award in 1996.

Over the years, she has had several successful careers and civic achievements. In 1986, at age 27, she was elected to the Sumter County Board of Education. She was elected a second time in 1988 and served with distinction until moving to Monroe County in 1991.

In Monroe County, Marilyn Culpepper served first as associate editor, then managing editor of the award-winning weekly newspaper, *The Monroe Journal*. She also distinguished herself through community service in several capacities. To name a few, she was president and/or board member of the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Monroe County Public Education Foundation, and the Monroeville Kiwanis Club (where she was the first woman elected as "Kiwanian of the Year"). She also served as a volunteer for the Monroe County Heritage Museums, and for the Alabama Writers Symposium during their inaugural year. In addition, she served in

Israel as the representative of the Monroe County Commission and the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce during performances of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Manifesting her talent, Mrs. Culpepper is a two-time recipient of the Alabama Medical Association's Douglas L. Cannon Recognition for Excellence in Medical Journalism.

As editor of *The Monroe Journal* and, later, economic developer for Monroe County from 1997–2000 and as chairwoman of the Monroe County Hospital Board, Mrs. Culpepper was an advocate for accessible health care for all citizens regardless of age, social or economic status. She was a driving force behind expansion of hospital services and creation of a rural health clinic in Monroe County.

Under Mrs. Culpepper's leadership, the hospital in Monroeville embarked on a major expansion and construction project, the creation of a cancer-treatment center and the development of a diabetes support program. She also oversaw the creation of the Monroe Health Foundation and has been a contributor to the foundation.

Today, Mrs. Culpepper serves as executive director of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society. Her commitment to community development—preservation, education, and innovation in enriching the lives of all citizens continues. She is committed to developing a regional network of cultural, civic and humanitarian efforts to benefit all residents of south Alabama and continues to be a friend to Monroe County and Monroe County Hospital in this endeavor.